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Contact: Pamela Gregg
gregg@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

UD'S JIM McCUTCHEON, 'THE GUITAR MAN,' GIVES VOICE TO INSTRUMENTS AGAIN IN NEW CD FOR CHILDREN

DAYTON, Ohio — Known to young music lovers as "The Guitar Man," Jim McCutcheon has created a second CD that packages music education so sweetly, kids will never realize lessons are involved.

McCutcheon, artist-in-residence and guitar instructor at the University of Dayton, released *A Day With the Guitar Man* April 14. The disc is targeted to children ages 2-10 and includes 15 tracks featuring eight members of the guitar family — the classical, steel-string, 12-string and electric guitars, the mandolin and ukulele, and some less-known fretted instruments, the balalaika and charango.

The recording doesn't teach how to play the instruments but teaches about them and includes a bit of history on the lesser known members. In Hawaii, for instance, "ukelele" means "jumping flea," which is what a musician's hand looks like when he or she strums the instrument, McCutcheon says on the recording. The songs vary in type and tempo, and all are fun.

"Like my first children's CD, *The Guitar Man*, this recording balances entertainment with education," McCutcheon said. "I introduce each song on the recording so listeners can have a perspective on the music. The accompanying 12-page booklet includes lyrics and caricatures of some of the instruments.

"I wanted to make something that would be fun and have a good, positive message," he added. "The other criterion was that adults would be able to enjoy it as well, and the response from children and adults to the first (children's) CD has been great."

The project was funded in part by an Ohio Arts Council Artists Projects grant. CDs are available at McCutcheon Music in Centerville, Books & Company, Borders, CD Connection and DeClarks at Town and Country.

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For media interviews, contact **Jim McCutcheon** at (937) 229-3931 or via e-mail at James.McCutcheon@notes.udayton.edu.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu